

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Withdrawn) The supporting device of claim 18, wherein said head support section and said back support section are separate structural parts which are fitted to each other.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) The supporting device of claim 18, wherein said areas can be closed by detachably or movably arranged respective cover elements.

5. (Previously Presented) The supporting device of claim 18, wherein said back support section and said head support section are integrated in a rigid support unit.

6. (Withdrawn) The supporting device of claim 5, wherein said rigid support unit is arranged to be movable between a vertical rest position and a horizontal supporting position.

7. (Withdrawn) The supporting device of claim 6, wherein said head support section and said back support section are mounted relative to one another so as to be able to be moved between the rest position and the supporting position by guide means.

8. (Previously Presented) A home or workplace furniture item or leisure item, wherein a supporting device as claimed in claim 18 is provided.

9. (Withdrawn) The home or workplace furniture item or leisure item as claimed in claim 8, configured as a seat and/or couch.

10. (Withdrawn) An add-on unit with a head support section and a spacer part and with at least one connection element for securing the add-on unit to a surface part, the spacer part being configured as a support surface for a spinal column area, and the securing being done such that the surface part as back support section serves for the overall creation of a supporting device as claimed in claim 18.

11.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A longitudinally elongate supporting device for a person's back and head area, said device comprising:

a head support section defining a flat head support surface; and

a back support section, said back support section defining a first flat support surface disposed at the level of shoulder blade areas of a person, and a second flat support surface, said first support surface being disposed between said head support ~~section~~surface and said second support surface, said head support surface and said first and second support surfaces all lying within a common horizontal plane, said first and second support surfaces each having a width dimension defined transversely relative to a longitudinal central axis of said supporting device and said second support surface having a longitudinal dimension defined parallel to

the central longitudinal axis of said supporting device, said first support surface defining a pair of areas which open sidewardly outwardly on opposite sides of said back support section for receiving the respective shoulder blade areas of the person, each said area having an innermost edge defined by an outer longitudinal edge of said first support surface and located adjacent the central longitudinal axis, said width dimension of said first support surface being defined transversely between said innermost edges of said areas and being significantly less than said width dimension of said second support surface, said width dimension of said first support surface being sufficiently narrow so that said first support surface supports substantially only a spinal column region of the person and said areas being unobstructed sidewardly outwardly in a direction away from the central axis and being unobstructed downwardly in a direction transverse to the common plane to permit the respective shoulder blade areas and the arms of the person in respective sidewardly outwardly extended positions generally parallel to the common plane to move downwardly below said first support surface the common plane without meeting any substantial resistance from said supporting device, said longitudinal dimension and said width dimension of said second support surface, longitudinally between a location on said second support surface corresponding axially to a hip area of a person and a location on said second support surface immediately axially adjacent the respective said areas in which the shoulder blade areas are positioned, being of a dimension sufficient for fully supporting the width of a person's thoracic region while lying on the back, said areas each having a maximum width dimension extending transversely between the respective said innermost edge to an outer extent in longitudinal alignment with an outer longitudinal edge of said second support surface, said

width dimension of each said area being greater than said width dimension of said first support surface.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 18, wherein said head support section has a width dimension defined transversely relative to the longitudinal central axis of said supporting device, said width dimension of said head support section being greater than said width dimension of said first support surface.

20.-23. (Cancelled)